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MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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A radio talk by Mr. J. B. Kincer, agricultural meteorologist, Weather Bureau, through WRC and 30 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, at 1.40 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, August 7, 1929.

We are to talk to you a little while to-day about July weather. This is a very important crop month, when the weather has a marked influence on the welfare of farmers. The ideal July weather is dry enough to save the winter wheat crop in good condition; moist and cool enough to properly mature small grain crops in the North, especially spring wheat; moist and warm enough to make good corn-growing weather, and relatively warm and dry in the Cotton belt, especially in years of boll weevil menace. In the few minutes available we can only make some broad statements as to the general effect of the month's weather on crop growth and farming operations, and while this may not apply to your immediate neighborhood, it does hold in a general way for the large crop producing sections of the country.

West of the Mississippi River, July, as a whole, was generally warmer than normal, especially in the Northwest, while east of the River about normal warmth prevailed. Rainfall was generally scanty in the middle West and in the Northwest, and was very unevenly distributed in the East. The South had moderate temperatures, and was mostly drier than normal.

At the beginning of July corn was very uneven, because of much late planting. The first ten days of the month continued too wet in some Ohio Valley sections and in limited areas of the western belt, but, in general, good growing weather prevailed, and the crop made favorable progress in most sections, except in some areas of the northern Great Plains where the soil had become too dry. During the second decade droughty conditions in the Northwest became more extended and a need of moisture developed more generally in the Great Plains States, but in general, progress of corn continued mostly satisfactory. During the last ten days of the month rainfall was scanty in most of the principal corn producing sections, and by the close moisture was needed rather badly in many places. Since the close of July generous and helpful rains have occurred in the Ohio Valley States and much of Iowa which have materially relieved the situation, but droughty conditions continued in the western Belt. During the last few days corn has suffered rather severely in many parts of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and parts of Texas and Louisiana, as well as in some Central and North Atlantic States. A general rain is needed over the entire western Belt and also in the more eastern states.

Winter Wheat harvest progressed well under mostly favorable weather conditions, except for interruption by rain in parts of the Ohio and upper Mississippi Valleys. In the Southwest threshing made good advance, but in the Northwest, especially in Montana, winter wheat was damaged by dry, warm weather. At the close of the month threshing had begun as far north as South Dakota. In the Spring Wheat Belt conditions were decidedly less favorable. One month ago, in our air visit to you, we spoke of a damaging drought in much of the Spring Wheat area. Well, conditions there did not improve, but rather became worse, for, following the droughty June, July rainfall was scanty. For example, Moorhead, Minn., in the heavy producing



section of the Red River Valley had only 26 percent of the normal July rainfall; Bismarck, N. Dak., 50 per cent; Williston, N. Dak., 32 per cent, and Havre, Mont., only 5 per cent of the normal monthly amount. In addition, the latter part of the month was very warm, and consequently, late fields of grain deteriorated rapidly, with many reported as complete failures. So, in general, July weather was favorable for harvesting and threshing winter wheat but was decidedly unfavorable for spring wheat and other small grain in the Northwest.

In the South, July, for the most part, was rather favorable for the growth of cotton, and by the close of the month plants were blooming freely to the northern sections of the belt, with picking progressing in southern districts. Rainfall was too frequent in many southern sections, however, where there was considerable local shedding, while picking and ginning were hindered by rainfall, especially the latter part in southern Texas. Unusually hot, dry weather prevailed in the northwestern belt the latter part of the month, with rain needed in parts of Texas and in Oklahoma. On the whole, July weather was rather favorable for the cotton crop, except in those sections where too frequent rainfall favored weevil activity, mostly in the southeast, and for a lack of moisture near the close in the northwest. The first week of August continued generally favorable, except that the drought in the northwestern belt was intensified by very hot and dry weather. This, however, was favorable for holding weevil in check.

